

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 ACDA-10 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ARAE-00 /092 W  
-----181957Z 117348 /46

P 181820Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6748

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

GWUESAL/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 3078

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1119

EBOO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PF

DR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ODUBER DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 1105; (B) SAN JOSE 1103

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT ODUBER SAYS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES ARE  
BEST HANDLED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND EXPRESSED  
DISPLEASURE WITH CURRENT PROCEDURES EMPLOYED, WHICH ENCOURAGE  
DOUBLE STANDARD. HE CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT  
UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY

1. AT MARCH 16 STATE DINNER HONORING VISITING COLOMBIAN  
PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN, PRESIDENT ODUBER, SPEAKING FROM  
PREPARED TEXT, OPINED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS BEST  
HANDLED MULTILATERALLY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH  
AS THE UN AND THE OAS. HE EXPRESSED STRONG DISPLEASURE, HOWEVER,  
WITH CURRENT METHODS OF DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE IN THESE FORA.

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2. ODUBER STRESSED THAT "THE SAME GOVERNMENTS THAT STAND UP TO  
DENOUNCE VIOLATIONS BY OTHER REGIME VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THEIR  
OWN COUNTRIES, AND OBSTRUCT AT ALL COSTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL OVERSIGHT ENTITIES." FOR THIS REASON,  
HE NOTED, "COSTA RICA HAS MAINTAINED IN THE UNITED NATIONS THAT  
IN ORDER TO AVOID POLITICAL GAME-PLAYING AND THE HYPOCRISY OF  
THE FALSE DEFENDERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE CREATION OF AN ADEQUATE

ENTITY, WHICH DEALS WITH SUCH RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN WHATEVER PART OF THE WORLD IS NECESSARY. FOR TWENTY YEARS HE NOTED, COSTA RICA HAS UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO HAVE A HIGH COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ESTABLISHED TO CARRY OUT THIS FUNCTION.

3. BECAUSE SUCH AN IMPARTIAL BODY DOES NOT EXIST, ODUBER POINTED OUT, INVESTIGATIONS OF DENUNCIATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SPECIFIC COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD BY DIVERSE TEMPORARY COALITIONS IN THE ASSEMBLY OR SPECIALIZED COMMISSIONS HAS OCCURRED. COSTA RICA'S RESERVATIONS OVER THIS PRACTICE IS DUE, THE PRESIDENT SAID, TO "WHAT WE JUDGE TO BE THE LACK OF SINCERITY OF THOSE WHO DENOUNCE, INCLUDING TRANSGRESSOR GOVERNMENTS, AND THE SELECTIVITY OF THE INVESTIGATIONS. SPECIAL COMMISSIONS ARE DESIGNATED WITH THE UNIQUE AND PRECISE MANDATE TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN A SPECIFIC COUNTRY WHOSE GOVERNMENT HAS AN IDEOLOGY OPPOSED TO THAT OF THE DENOUNCING ENTITY."

4. ODUBER STRONGLY OPPOSED THE DOUBLE STANDARD REFLECTED IN THESE CASES WHERE POLITICAL IDEOLOGY DETERMINES WHO IS JUDGED. TO PROTEST THIS LACK OF IMPARTIALITY, HE NOTED THAT AT THE RECENT UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING IN GENEVA, COSTA RICA ABSTAINED ON A MOTION TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHILE AFTER THE COMMISSION DECLINED TO LOOK AT CONDITIONS IN UGANDA OR TO STUDY THE ISSUE OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS.

COMMENT: BY CHANNELING COSTA RICA'S HUMAN RIGHTS ENERGIES AND INTEREST TO MULTILATERAL BODIES, COSTA RICA IS EMPHASIZING A TRADITIONAL VIEW NOTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS MARCH 17 UNGA SPEECH. AT THE SAME TIME. DEMOCRATIC BUT TINY COSTA RICA  
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DEFTLY SIDE-STEPS DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THOSE LATIN AMERICAN STATES WHICH ARE VULNERABLE TO CRITICISMS ON THE UMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. KILDAY

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SHUM, PGOV, PF, CS, (ODUBER QUIROS, DANIEL)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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